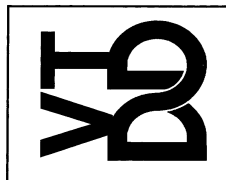
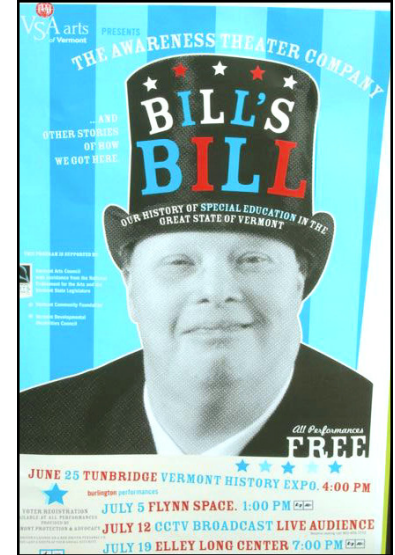


VT Developmental Disabilities Council
103 S. Main Street Room #117 North
Waterbury, VT 05671-0206



VERMONT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL



FY 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



Greetings from the President

2006 was an exciting time for VTDDC as it developed a new State Plan to guide its work and the projects it funds over the next five years. The new State Plan grew out of what may have been the largest outreach effort ever. Over 100 people attended community forums around Vermont. 179 Vermonters also participated in a survey about how Vermont is doing on a range of services and supports. Their heartfelt comments were compiled into a moving document, "179 Voices."

We approach FY07 with a great appreciation for all of the Vermonters who helped us build the new Five-Year State Plan, and for those who will be joining us in system advocacy to realize it. With a strong commitment to work toward our goals, we can make a positive impact on our communities and the people of Vermont.

We hope you learn more about VTDDC through this Annual Report. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Jami Trowell

Tami Trowell
VTDDC President



Agency Representatives

<i>Lucy Abair</i>	<i>Department for Children & Families</i>
<i>Claire Bruno</i>	<i>Department of Education</i>
<i>Cindy Ingham</i>	<i>Department of Health</i>
<i>Sara Kobylenski</i>	<i>Agency of Human Services Field Service Director</i>
<i>Glen McClintock</i>	<i>Division of Vocational Rehabilitation</i>
<i>Ed Paquin</i>	<i>Vermont Protection & Advocacy</i>
<i>Theresa Wood</i>	<i>Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living</i>
<i>Susan Yuan</i>	<i>Center on Disability & Community Inclusion, University of Vermont</i>

Staff

<i>Karen Schwartz</i>	<i>Executive Director</i>
<i>Judith Parsons</i>	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

To Contact the Council

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E-mail:	judy.parsons@ahs.state.vt.us
Web:	www.ddc.vermont.gov

FY06 Council Members

Self-Advocates, Individuals & Family Members

<i>Dawn Arsenault</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Barre</i>
<i>Patty Czarnecki</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Ira</i>
<i>Herb Gingrich</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Middlebury</i>
<i>Harriet Hall</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Newport</i>
<i>Robert Harvey</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Barre</i>
<i>Jay Lafayette</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Rutland</i>
<i>Brian Lawlor</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Woodstock</i>
<i>Dennis Lindberg</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>S. Burlington</i>
<i>Lance Mead</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Brandon</i>
<i>Robert Price</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Essex</i>
<i>Lisa Smedy</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Barre</i>
<i>Tami Trowell</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Brattleboro</i>



What is VTDDC?

VTDDC is a state-wide council that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families.

***The Mission of VTDDC is
to facilitate connections and
to promote supports that bring people
with developmental disabilities
into the heart of Vermont communities.***



60% of its 21 members are self-advocates and family members. VTDDC uses its federal funds for projects at the local, regional and state levels. These projects bring Vermonters with developmental disabilities into the heart of their communities through public education, leadership training, and advocacy aimed at enhancing individual and family-centered supports and services.

We Believe . . .

***In communities where all people have a “voice”
and are heard with respect;
In safe communities where all people have equal value;
In communities that are friendly and support equality
and fulfilling relationships;
With opportunities, people grow and share their dreams
and abilities; and
That the humanity we share is more important
than our different abilities.***

VTDDC’s New Five-Year State Plan GOALS for 2007-2011

- ◆ *People with developmental disabilities and their families have information necessary to advocate to get their needs met.*
- ◆ *People with developmental disabilities and their families will be actively engaged in activities that bring them into the heart of Vermont's communities.*
- ◆ *People with developmental disabilities and their families will have open and fair access to a range of supports, services, resources and opportunities based on the needs they identify.*
- ◆ *Students in high school will have the supports they need for a smooth transition to life in the heart of their communities.*
- ◆ *People will have increased options for transportation services for work, school, medical, social, recreational and other personal needs.*



Council Publications

“Choosing Words with Dignity” raises awareness of People First language. In FY 2006 more than 2600 copies were distributed to individuals, public schools, universities, media, organizations, and agencies across Vermont and the United States.

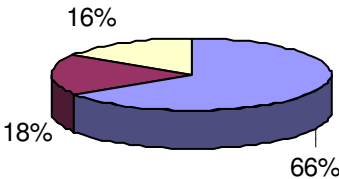
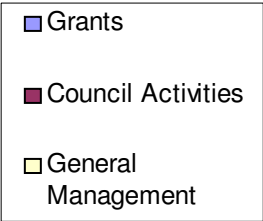
“179 VOICES: Thoughts on Services and Supports for People with Developmental Disabilities” describes what is happening in Vermont through the words of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The voices represent the people who responded to VTDDC’s 2006 State Plan survey.

“2006 Survey Scores: Rating Highlights” summarizes the data from the 2006 State Plan Survey across areas of daily life.

“State Plan 2007-11 Comprehensive Review & Analysis” gives a snapshot of Vermont quality of life including political, economic and social climate. It addresses the realities of life for Vermonters with developmental disabilities, focusing on waiting list data, access to systems of services and supports, and current trends and gaps.

Council Budget

Grantees provided \$99,766 in matching funds (cash and in-kind services).



Income	
Federal Allocation	\$457,115
State Indirect	\$ 2,715
FY05 Carry-over	\$ 43,132
TOTAL	\$502,962

Expenditures	
Grants	\$331,528
Council Activities	\$ 90,108
General Management	\$ 81,326
TOTAL	\$502,962

Choosing Words with Dignity



Communicating With and About
People with Disabilities

People with disabilities, like other groups, are actively seeking full civil rights. We want to be accepted in our communities as equals.

What you write and what you say can enhance the dignity of people with disabilities and promote positive attitudes about our abilities.

Let your descriptive words emphasize our worth and abilities, not the disabling condition. Refer to the person first, rather than the disability. The phrase “people with disabilities” is preferred over “the disabled”.

Executive Committee Fund provides small grants to individuals and family members to support attendance at trainings and conferences, and to organizations for activities that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

In addition to individual grants, VTDDC funded:

- ◆ Unity Band, an inclusive music group.
- ◆ Partners in Adventure inclusive camp for teens.
- ◆ Kids on the Block Vermont workshops.
- ◆ *Bill's Bill* theatre production of VSA Arts.
- ◆ VT Adaptive Ski & Sports activities.

Vermonters who received funding said:

- ◆ “Empowering and confidence-building experiences gave him the self-confidence he needed to return to school.”
- ◆ “It was the first time in his life that he’d been part of a group of peers.”
- ◆ “Our family has benefited beyond description since attending the seminar.”



- ◆ “Students who ordinarily don’t speak . . . and those who have bullied other students offered suggestions and insight into these behaviors.”
- ◆ “I learned all people want to dance even if they can’t hear, can’t see or if they use a wheel chair.”

Results from 2006 Council Activities and Grant Projects

People Benefiting

- ◆ 131 people active in inclusive recreational activities.
- ◆ 254 people benefited from quality assurance efforts.
- ◆ 561 received needed health services.

People Active in Advocacy

- ◆ 105 people trained in community supports.
- ◆ 867 people actively participated in systems advocacy.
- ◆ 8 youth presented at Disability Awareness Day and Governor’s Summit on Employment of People with Disabilities panels.
- ◆ 60 entities participated in partnerships or coalitions.
- ◆ 225 public policymakers educated about issues.
- ◆ Awareness initiatives reached 188,120 people.

LEADING TO POLICY CHANGE including:

- ◆ Increase in employment and community supports from 25 to 40 hours per week.
- ◆ 65 students leaving school received funding for employment and related supports.
- ◆ Tax protections preserved for developmental home providers.
- ◆ \$120,000 increase in transportation funds.
- ◆ \$100,000 increase in respite funding for children with special health needs.
- ◆ \$523,860 increase in community supports.

Highlights of VTDDC-Funded Projects

Legislator Education & Advocacy Project

supported a cross-disability coalition to educate and advocate in the Legislature and with state agencies to extend civil and other rights; improve services and supports including Medicaid dental coverage; maintain the home provider tax exemption; and increase respite coverage for children with special needs.

Grantee: VT Coalition for Disability Rights - VCDR



Communication Support Project

helped Vermonters with developmental disabilities fully participate in legal matters through training of communication facilitators able to explain proceedings, providing outreach about the service to law enforcement and first responders, and coordinating referrals to courts.

Grantee: VT Office of the Defender General

Disability Employment Outreach Project

promoted employment of Vermonters who have developmental disabilities through an employer website; regional and state-wide trade shows; and the Governor's Summit on Employment of People with Disabilities. *Grantee: Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities - GCEPD*



Systems Advocacy Project engaged in legal advocacy that improved programs and policies, including VPharm and special education due process; and provided training on legal rights of adults and children to a range of audiences including Office of Defender General and VT Department of Corrections. *Grantee: Disability Law Project - Vermont Legal Aid.*

Transportation Leadership Project offered leadership training to learn about public transportation and how to improve it in their communities, and developed cross-disability advocacy teams.

Grantee: Riders of Vermont -RoVer

Self-Advocacy Project helped people with developmental disabilities take control over their own lives, make decisions, solve problems, and speak for themselves. *Grantee: Green Mountain Self-Advocates - GMSA*

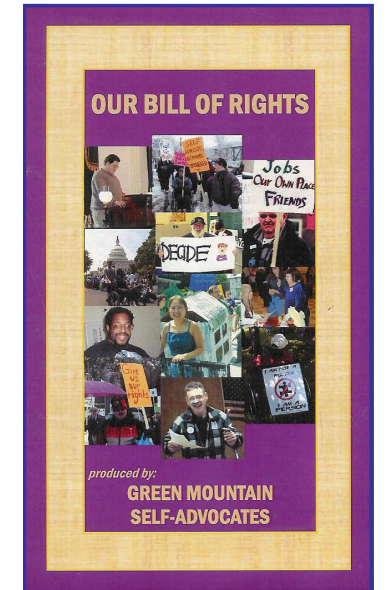


Accomplishments included:

- ◆ Sponsored fundraising workshops so self-advocates from Vermont could attend the national "Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered" Conference in Atlanta. They presented seven workshops to attendees who represented states across the nation.

- ◆ 92 high school students from 12 schools participated in self-advocacy and leadership workshops.

- ◆ Launched four new trainings including an interactive manual for the nationally acclaimed film "Your Bill of Rights."



- ◆ Published a Voting Guide for self-advocates that is widely used with groups throughout the Northeastern United States.

- ◆ Expanded into a new region of Vermont with two new self-advocate groups.